CSP balances 1.3 million dollar debt

by Amy Foster

If you've been hearing rumors that Concordia still has an unbalanced budget for this year, you've been hearing wrong. According to President Holst and Executive Vice President Kay Madson, our budget this year is balanced. However, this is due to program and position reductions and to the dropping of revenue enhancements for some programs.

Concordia University did have the potential for an out of balance budget. As the budget for this year was being prepared in October, it was discovered that there would be a $1,332,000 projected shortfall. This was learned early enough in the year that the school could work on finding ways to solve this shortfall before the January meeting of the Board of Regents that expects the President to maintain a balanced budget. At the convocation on February 4, Holst said that he could remember only one time in 18 years that the budget was not balanced and that was related to changes of Vice Presidents.

On Wednesday, February 4, President Holst held a meeting in Buetow Auditorium for a discussion of the budget and the recent changes that have occurred on campus. He began the meeting by stating that the budget is balanced and then explained exactly how the budget is formed. He also spoke about the reasons for the projected shortfall this year. According to Holst, three things contributed to the budget deficit. First of all, benchmarks did not hold when Concordia made the change from a college that ran on the quarter system to a university that runs on semesters. Unexpected costs from the changes arose and the budget was not prepared to cover them.

The other two contributors to the deficit are related to student enrollment and tuition. Enrollment was higher as a whole, but more of the students were part-time. Concordia was not expecting a higher number of part-time students. Another factor was that fewer transfer students arrived at school. Last year, 127 students transferred in. This year, only 98 people transferred to Concordia. Both of these factors contributed to a full-time equivalent enrollment that was 60 people fewer than planned. This means that the school was out of 60 full-time student tuitions. According to Madson, Concordia

Orphaned union turns to student management

by Amy Klein

"Did you hear about Dan Asmus?" my neighbor asked me during the first week of school.

"What about him?" I asked. "Is he okay?" Dan had been one of my favorite CSP staff members since my freshman orientation, and had become an even more important person in my life since I started working in the Student Union last fall.

"He got fired."

"Fired?" I stared at her for a minute, shocked. "I don't know. I just heard people talking about it."

I slumped against the door frame. No Dan Asmus. Why? And what was going to happen to our Union?

The article above explains that Dan was fired. His position, Director of Student Activities and the Student Union, was eliminated as part of the budget-balancing measures the administration reluctantly took. The CSP bulletin published the announcement in the February 9 edition that administration of the Union this semester will be handled by three students: Heidi Stehr, the Concordia Activities Board (CAB) Union Desk Chair; Matt Woodford, the Student Senate Vice-President of Relations; and Max Knoell, chair of the Student Union Board of Governors and the Student Senate Vice-President of Representatives. The Sword interviewed the three of them in an attempt to answer many of the questions students are asking.

Who came up with the current plan and how was the decision made?

Knoell explained that the Union is run by the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBG), as it was when Dan was still here. The SUBG is composed of five students and three faculty and staff members, and it is their job to make sure the building is used in a manner beneficial to students. According to Knoell, at their meeting shortly after Asmus' position was eliminated, the SUBG decided they and students "should step in and make a decision before the administration did." Lucas Woodford and the rest of the Student Senate Executive Board brought the SUBG a proposal for running the Union which included Stehr, Knoell, and Matt Woodford "assuming Dan's duties. Why those three? Basically, by virtue of their elect-
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Friday, February 13, 1998

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**Orphaned Union continued from front page**

Knoell and Woodford, and appointed (Stehr and Knoell's SUBG chair position) offices.

Knoell emphasized that the current arrangement is temporary. Lucas Woodford and Jen Foster are heading up a committee to devise a long-term plan for Union administration.

What are Stehr, Knoell, and Matt Woodford's roles?

"Our title is Administrators of the Student Union," Knoell explained. "That includes a big list of duties: we oversee facility usage and the employees, keep an eye on maintenance, schedule events, we're here to be an open ear for the students. These are just a few of the things. We each have individual roles but we work as a team."

Knoell's main responsibilities include events and facility usage, which he already did as SUBG chair. The Board, he explained, votes on whether to allow events based on whether the event is in keeping with the Union's mission statement.

Matt Woodford's responsibilities include maintaining contacts with people outside the school, for example, getting special deals for Concordia events. Stehr's primary role is to supervise the employees.

Stehr emphasized that their role is, "management of the Student Union this semester... the day-to-day administration of the Student Union."

As Matt Woodford explained it, "we basically have the same position. We're dividing it up somewhat but we each have to know what the others are doing."

What are the new office hours?

The hours are posted on the office door, and will be changing after five weeks. Currently, one of the three administrators can be found in the office during these hours: Monday from 1-5 pm, Tuesday 12:30-4:30 pm, Wednesday 4:50 pm, Thursday 1:50 pm, and Friday 12-2 pm.

Is there any truth to the rumor that students are in danger of losing the Union to the administration?

Matt Woodford's answer was a simple, "No."

Knoell expanded, "We were. As of now, I would say that if we as the administrators can get the students and the students want to rent out the Union, it should be for something that's valuable for the students in some way. We're doing an inventory to find out what all we have here because there's a lot of stuff here - like cross-country skis and camping equipment - that students could be using that we didn't even know we had. We're learning as we go. We want to make sure we do this job right."

Stehr also explained that the desk workers are going to be following the Staff Procedures Manual strictly, rather than the by-and-miss enforcement of rules such as the rule that students must present a valid Concordia ID to check out equipment. This should provide consistency and make the Union run more smoothly.

How can students help?

All three emphasized student involvement in and use of the Union as the key to its health as well as its survival. As Woodford suggested, "Be open, be helpful, be supportive. Come to events so the administration sees student involvement, which leads to a bigger budget and possibly more hours for Marriott to be open there."

Knoell's advice was to "Think and say that this is not a big tragedy but an opportunity to show the administration that we as students aren't going to sit around and do nothing."

Stehr asked that students, "bring to us any suggestions or concerns or anything they think we're doing right because we just want to do a good job and the only way we can do this is by getting input from students." Her final words summed up the attitude of the Union's three student administrators: "Come and use the building because it's yours."

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**Budget continued from front page**

is "very tuition-driven." Without those 60 tuitions, the budget deficit increased. The problems resulting from the college to university and quarter to semester changes, fewer transfer students, and fewer full-time enrollments than part-time served as the main contributors to a budget deficit.

To repair the deficit, several suggestions have been brought up by outside consultants. Thomas Blakewell, one of these consultants, suggested that Concordia is only tuition income to balance the budget and use gift income raised by the Office of Development for special growth needs. Another suggestion was to move from a personnel university to a program university. This simply means decrease personnel and increase the program itself. Right now the budget ratio is approximately 65% personnel to 35% program across campus, according to Madison. The school would like to see an increase in the percentage of program dollars available.

After going through the budget, decisions were made that reduced the deficit to zero. The specific cuts came from these three major areas: $272,000 from revenue enhancements (from programs like Concordia School of Accelerated Learning, School Age Care, and Operations), $833,050 from program and positions (identified by line item reductions), and $226,950 from percentage reductions in selected academic programs. After these cuts were made, the budget deficit was at zero. The budget was balanced.

All of these cuts will affect students and staff, and faculty at Concordia, but the two most spoken about have been the academic program reductions and the program and position reductions. The first deals with percentage decreases. Instead of a department getting one hundred percent of its budget, it may, for example, be cut down to ninety-five percent.

The second set of cuts, the program and position cuts, is more immediate to the members of the campus community. These cuts are identified on the budget as line-item cuts. According to Madison, the equivalent of nine positions on campus were cut: Director of the Student Union, Help-Desk Coordinator (part-time), two positions from Maintenance, two Administrative Assistants from academics, three positions from CSLA, two Administrative Assistants, and one teaching position, and one position in Advancement was reduced from full-time to part-time.

The decision to make some of these cuts was part of the plan to move to a more program-oriented school, while others were made with the thought that students could become more involved and eventually become replacements to the positions. The position cuts were painful to make, according to President Holst. How these cuts will affect the campus is not yet fully known. This is something that will be learned as the year progresses.

As of now, Concordia's budget is in the black. It is balanced after months of hard work and planning. Difficult decisions were also part of the balancing. Cuts were made from programs and positions. One important thing to remember is that this is not a new experience for our school, nor is it unique to our school.

Concordia goes through budget adjustments almost every year. This year, people noticed the cuts more because of the amount of the deficit, $3 million dollars, and because of the removal of some key positions. It also should be remembered that the school was not in a crisis in dealing with the deficit, but that it was working on an ordinary problem that has now been fixed.

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**Concordia Speaks**

The big question: What do YOU like best about Concordia-St. Paul?

**Adam Engelmann, junior:** “The people. They’re all very friendly; there are very few cliques. It’s very open and you can join in between different groups of people. The pros are very open to talk to and very interested in students’ lives.”

**Aimee Lindner, freshman:** “The theatre. Everything about the theatre: the faculty, the building, and the commitment to the art rather than the performer.”

**Reverend Professor Coach Hendrickson:** “Quite honestly, the thing that I like about our Concordia is the students. In my 29 years [at CSP] I’ve always been excited by the people I meet, the quality of the students, and that hasn’t changed. I see wonderful kids who are seeking to become adults and seeking our help [as staff] to reach Christian maturity.”

**John Hanneman, sophomore:** “The fact that you can do anything here. I mean, if you want to start a climbing club, you can do it. If you want to join the track team, you can and you can compete. If you want to try cross-country for the first time, you’re treated as a valuable runner.”

**Monica Martens, junior:** “Wollaeger 3 West.”
Waving farewell to a friend, Omar Smith

by Lydia Wittman

As Concordia waves good-bye to a dear friend, Omar Smith, after 30 years of devoted service, we must take a moment to celebrate all that she has graciously offered to this community. Smith, a Concordia-St. Paul and United Theological Seminary alumna, has held the responsibilities of Co-Director of Summer Sessions, Chair of the Grant Committee, Catalog Coordinator, member of the Elderhostel Planning Committee, Affirmative Action Officer, and Administrative Assistant to the President, among many, many other roles. How can one person have accomplished so much for this institution?

Her positive outlook on life probably has a lot to do with her success. "I really enjoy challenges and new experiences," stated Smith about her career and future. "I see learning as a lifelong process." In her retirement, Smith is considering taking some more classes; it is her firm belief that higher learning is an opportunity for everyone.

As Smith looks back on her years at Concordia and long list of achievements, she does not see them as a result of her own doing. "It's nothing I did, but it's what we did together (to accomplish our goals)."

According to Dr. Ellie Heginbotham of the English department, Smith's gift lies in her, "big vision for the university combined with a remarkable eye for detail."

Smith's hope for Concordia's future is that it will continue to strengthen the existing curriculum. She offers valuable insight into the current changes that have resulted from structural and budget changes. "Change is always evolving. We need change to meet the needs of today. It is good, really good." Smith explains, "The school-age care program, CSL department, and the new buildings are all a result of changes in the past."

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Dickinson scholar to speak on Sunday

by Ellie Heginbotham

Concordia hosts a distinguished international scholar when Dr. Gudrun Graber speaks on Emily Dickinson and language. Sunday afternoon, February 15 at 2 p.m. in the Dining Hall.

The event, sponsored by the Emily Dickinson International Society/Minnesota and the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, brings to our campus the scholar who organized a major Dickinson conference in Austria during the summer of 1995.

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Coach Cross's dismissal causes grief

by Melissa R. Bargfrede

As a senior this year, Myron has a few things to do before he graduates. He turned in 46 points in two games to re-earn the honor from last year. His best college season was his one year at Normandale, where he averaged 26 points per game. It's been so much a part of his life that Myron was taught to love basketball as soon as he could walk. His fundraising efforts over the years totaled nearly $200,000. This money was used to pay for spring softball trips, three scoreboards (football, basketball/veeball, and softball), the building of softball dugouts and a new football locker room. He had a role in getting the Pep Band going again last year. He oversaw bringing football back onto campus in 1995, after an extended period of having to travel to other stadiums (like Central). He was responsible for generating a great deal of positive media, including the televising of the first-ever football game on Saint Paul's Cablevision. He started a golf tournament fundraiser for Concordia, which is now one of the largest in the state, and has been renamed the Mike Augustine Memorial Golf Tournament. A large part of the proceeds now go toward cancer research, but a portion still comes to the CSP softball program.

As a coach, TC had three main characteristics. He was demanding, fair, and fun to be around. He is known for his storytelling and enthusiasm. He added "fun" to "hard work" and came up with "athletics." At least 25 of TC's former softball and football players now hold coaching jobs, from elementary to collegiate levels. Some of them have coached side-by-side with him. Others have gone on to make their way in the world of sports. Two of TC's notable assistant coaches are Tom Rubbelke and Mike Mullarkey. Rubbelke came here fifteen years ago with TC to coach Comet softball, and has now accepted a position as head coach for the team. Mullarkey, who was the offensive line coach at CSP, is now working in the NFL as the tight end coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

TC was perhaps one of Concordia's greatest philanthropists. In the words of sophomore Dustin Campbell, "He was a father-figure to me . . . he cared for all his players on and off the field." Again and again, similar words come from his former players, football and softball alike. Indeed, he played a very active role in his athletes' lives. He required his freshmen football and softball players to go to Study Table twice a week. He found off-campus jobs for people who were either ineligible for work study or were just looking for work. Probably the most important and successful thing that he did was teach life lessons. He not only encouraged his teams to be teammates on the field, but also in life. Two demands that he had were: (1) be the best you can be and (2) be a good person. As simple as those requests sound, they are cornerstones of Christian living.

For those who have not yet heard, TC has taken a position offered him four days after his dismissal from CSP. He is working full-time as the offensive coordinator at Marygrove College.

TC enjoyed many things about Concordia. He says, "I thank Concordia for all they did for me. I love Concordia." This is where he got his degree, for which he is very grateful. He felt that some of the things that CSP stands for are very important. He sees the "family image" that is projected by the people here. He also feels that the students here are generally overachievers who work to be the best that they can be. He also thanks all of the faculty, staff, and students who supported him in his fifteen years here. Finally, he said, "After the ordeal happened, I'd like to thank Dr. Ruth Busman -- who I think is the best professor on campus; also Mike Streitz, Liz Pennyman, Tom Maurer, and Dennis Geitzlaff for their support . . . . I pray that the administration is making right decisions."

And now, TC, from the little people here at Concordia University, thank you. We will miss you, and we ask God's richest blessings on you as you continue your journey in life.

Women's spotlight: Kruger receives award

by Katie Ellinger

Despite the honor of this title, it wasn't enough to consider Myron's highest personal laurel. He played for Creinin-Derham Hall, and he feels that his greatest achievement was hitting the game-winning free throws in the state tournament.

It was while in high school that Myron encountered one of his most outstanding basketball influences in Avena Kelly, Jr., the coach for Creinin-Derham Hall. Myron also admired the great players of the times -- "whoever was hot." He noticed in a recent "CSP Bulletin" an advertisement for the upcoming game against Northland College that will be held at the Target Center. It said something to the effect of "Stephen Marbury and Myron Taylor -- on the same court!" I have to admit that I laughed a little. They're both just trying to play the game.

Men's Spotlight: Myron Taylor -- CIT's most valued

by Melissa R. Bargfrede

It's been so much a part of his life that Myron Taylor doesn't even remember when he started playing basketball. This two-time CIT All-Tournament Team selection really heated things up for the big weekend. He turned in 46 points in two games to re-earn the honor from last year.

As a senior this year, Myron has a few things to boast about. He played at Normandale Community College before coming to Concordia last year. His best college season was his one year at Normandale, where he averaged 26 points per game. They ran a different style of offense there, which contributed heavily to his high scores. Not that he's been a slouch here, though. His All-Tournament Team status last year was complemented by his being named All-Tournament MVP. Despite the honor of this title, it wasn't enough to consider Myron's highest personal laurel. He played for Creinin-Derham Hall, and he feels that his greatest achievement was hitting the game-winning free throws in the state tournament.

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Lady Comets growing strong

by Katie Ollinger

As the final buzzer looms ever nearer, the women’s basketball team is concluding one of the most intense seasons seen on the court. From the early days of timed miles in October to the heart wrenching, sweaty days of February, the team has been guided by Concordia’s newest head coach Crystal Flint. Flint, a former All-American player for the University of Minnesota, is assisted by Treka McMillan and Connie Kiedrowski, alumni of U-M and CSP respectively.

If records were only about sacrifices, hard work and playing through pain, there would be few losses for the Comets this season. Many members of the team have commented on how their individual skills have improved throughout the season and how this year everyone has ‘bonded’ quite well. However, as we all know, records are also about the numbers on the scoreboard when forty minutes are up.

St. Scholastica, UW-Superior, and the home re-opener against Martin Luther. All were exciting games, until the last couple of minutes of play, when things started to slip away.

Then, the tide turns again, although briefly, in the Super Bowl Sunday win against Northland College. (Maybe that was just a bad day for Wisconsin teams, or something.) Since then, however, the Comets have remained wireless, although it can’t be for lack of trying or the want to win.

Some major setbacks have occurred throughout the season. Multiple player injuries and illnesses have made it difficult to maintain a consistent line-up. The team has been hit hard with the loss of the skills of Patrick Gee and Ben Bauer. Even with the hard work of the rest of the team members to try to fill the gaps left by these players, the responsibilities are spread very thin.

Without the height that is typical of the majority of the opposing teams, rebounds are killing the Comets. The turnover ratios haven’t been the best, and the shooting percentages could use a little improvement. For me to have pointed out all of these things—pretty big parts of the game, obviously—and still be able to talk about how tough and close their games have been, it would be amazing to see what would happen to clean up on the stats one night. It would be an easy victory, no doubt. And it is very possible that it could happen sometime before the season is over. There are still a couple of weeks left, and a few more opportunities to show just what the Comets are made of. Come to see them at the Target Center on Sunday, February 15, when they go for the second win of the season against Northland. Enjoy the game, get a little wild. Support your fellow students.

Fast Tracks

by Melissa R. Bargfrede

Junior Varsity Action

McMillan and Connie Kiedrowski, the Comet men’s basketball team has faced plenty of opposition in the past two months, and things haven’t always exactly worked out for the best.

Over the extended break, the Comets were on the road for almost every game. They finished off the first semester with home games against Gustavus and St. Thomas, both of which were losses. But then they took their show on the road to California, where they were able to enjoy a couple of days in Los Angeles, along with a very short excursion to Mexico. They visited and practiced at UCLA, then played in a Californian rendition of CIT at Concordia, Irvine, where they came away with second-place honors.

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Spiritual

A view from the tunnel

by Aimee Bruning

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might dare to die. But God loved us, even if we were ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might dare to die. But God loved us, even if we were ungodly.

The Valentine story

by Gerry Coleman

Have you ever heard the real reason Valentine's Day got started? I am sure you think you have. Some say it was about a king and his daughter Valentine. Others may believe it is just a whole bunch of hoaxes that the candy factories, the greeting card companies, and the flower shops of America put together just to make up for a bad Christmas. But you, for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might dare to die. But God loved us, even if we were ungodly.

The next night went as planned. The heartache was so strong that he screamed out in agony. Many laughed at what he went through because they had no idea how much love he had in him, even for them. Soon it was time to let go. A few days later his friends were thinking about what he went through. Why did he die? He was the one who kept them all together and taught them all he knew.

Some ladies went to see his body, but when they got there it was gone. They ran and screamed but didn't know what to do. As they were all sitting in the house, they locked up and they stood up. He was dressed in white with a great big smile on his face. He explained to them that his plan was complete. He had shown his love for them even though they deserted him. He helped them through the solutions to evil, to model in our lives the rejection of evil, and to have zero tolerance for the presence of evil in our world. It remains for us, who live in a culture saturated in comfort, to follow Martin, take aim at sin, and, in Lincoln's words, "hit that thing and hit it hard."

It remains for us to learn that this Rightfully Anxious warfare against sin was not Martin's own, but borrowed from God - just as the dream was not his own, but borrowed from God. And then to dare to believe that ordinary people like us can, just like Martin, freely borrow such things from God as we can use in our own lives to make his dream come true not only for us, but for the world which he loved so much that he sent his Son.

It remains for us to see reconciliation in its divine cosmic completeness, knowing that God means to put it all back together again, even things that will surprise us - nothing will be left unreconciled. Now that will be a tapestry. Each baptism is a foretaste of the complete reconciliation that God accomplished in Christ, a reconciliation which is both now and not yet.
Lovelines

Paul:
Thank you for being a blessing in my life. I admire your commitment to Christ and zeal for serving Him. You are an inspiration.
Love in Christ,
Angie

Angela Fulbright:
You are a precious treasure. I thank God for you. Your friendship means a lot to me.
Know that you will always be loved.
--???

Koryn:
You are truly a blessing to me! Thank you for being my bestest friend in the whole world! "A friend is one who knows who you are, understands where you've been, accepts who you've become, and still gently loves you to grow."
Love,
Koryn

Chris Bollig:
You R my sunshine!
Love,
Bambi

Bill (Sather):
With every breath, my mind drifts away to my hopes and my dreams... I'll always love you!
--Anonymous

Coryn:
You are one of My most beautiful creations!
--God

Heidi:
Happy Valentine's Day, Freakmama! You are so special to me! Thank you for being my bestest friend in the whole world! "A friend is one who knows who you are, understands where you've been, accepts who you've become, and still gently loves you to grow."
Love,
Jessa

Shanna:
I've enjoyed our friendship so much! Thanks for the talks, the dancing, the "giving it up..." and the Paper Warehouse excursion! You're awesome! Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
Jessa

Karin D'Alessio:
Hey, Miss Karo! I love you and am so happy that we are rooming together. You are such a blessing to me and many, many others. You are fantastic, Fabnoll
Love,
Jen

Bogie:
You are the bomb! Guess what time it is?!?
--LZ

Bogie:
I'm glad that you live above my apartment!
Love,
Kazu

Bethany:
I'm glad that you live above my apartment!
Love,
Kazu

Chris:
I think you're so cute and funny and I'm in your IPC class at 11:10 with Professor Charron. You'll never guess who I am!
Love,
Your secret admirer

Angie:
May we continue to show Christ's love to each other and ask for His will to be done in our relationships.
Love,
Paul

Heidi:
I'm so glad I started school with you! What would I do without your smile?
All my love,
Bambi
Lovelines

Jill:
"Follow your dream...Take one step at a time and don't settle for less, just continue to climb. Follow your dream...If you stumble, don't stop and lose sight of your goal, press on to the top. For only on top can we see what we've done and what we can do, can we have the vision to seek something new...Press on and follow your dream."

Love, Jessa

Rosa & Same:
Thanks for all the love and support. You guys are the BOMB!
---Genus

Sarah:
Happy Valentine's Day, sweetie! I hope our love stays as strong as it is forever! I love you! Happy Valentine's Day!
---Sarah

The Pope:
Thank you for making me feel so special. Love, Your brown-eyed girl

The Three Jelly Beans

Devoted fans of "Moments with Misty":
Remember today and everyday: "God so loved the world (you)" that he gave his one and only Son, that whomever believes in him(you) shall not perish but have eternal life." Peace of the Lord to you all.

Love,
Your sister in Him, Misty

Brandon Hollingsworth, Dave Connolly, Chad Nelson, Jim Roberts, & Scott Weiss:
"Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns." You, my love, are a rose among the prickly thorns. The thorns grew to rip apart what is pure in our hearts. Do not let that discourage you, for your true beauty will outshine that of the ungrateful thorn. Discouragement grows quickly, so be grateful for what you have and let is shown through the maze of ugliness that surrounds such beauty. "Your words are windows to your heart." Our hearts wait to hear the sweet nothings whispered upon the sweet petals that are carried in upon the wind. We wait for the wind to carry our voice into your hearts.

2 Hearts

D.J. Leary:
I hope you weren't too embarrassed! It was the only article of clothing that I could spare! How's THAT for sassyy!!
---???

Misty"s Denoted fans of "Moments with Misty" and "Moments with Misty" that he gave his one and only Son, that whomever believes in him(you) shall not perish but have eternal life." Peace of the Lord to you all.

Love,
Your sister in Him, Misty

To my boys on 1 South:
Thanks for all the laughter, the listening, the launjin', and the love! Happy Valentine's Day to you all!
---Melissa

To Emily:
Keep saying "YES." Always.
---Ryan

J. Pete:
Pete, I love you brother and I'm going to miss you next year!
---Godfrey

Lil Cool Chic:
I love you.
---The Goddess
Dozens of visitors from other Concordias were on our campus two weeks ago for the Concordia Invitational Tournament. With all these other Concordians here, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to put a spin on Concordia Speaks for this issue and do “Other Concordias Speak.”

I asked students from each of the other three schools,

“What do you like best about your Concordia?”

**Mindy Rohrbeck, sophomore, Seward:** “There’s not just one thing that sticks out. It’s all great. I love it all.”

**Kevin Creutz, freshman, River Forest:** “I like the people. I’m a freshman and that’s what made me decide to go there because I knew a lot of people there, both students and professors. That’s what I like the best.”

**Connie Gee, senior, Mequon:** “The closeness of everybody.”

**Aaron Schnegelberger, Seward:** “I really like the area it’s in. It’s got great location. It’s got the small town feel in a big town area. I also like corn a lot.”
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EOE
Travel

CMS brings Son-shine to Florida

by Angie Seifert

"Good kids" is what the local paper called us. The local television news thought we were a refreshing bunch of college students because we came with goals to serve, instead of to get a tan or to attend as many parties as we could until we passed out. Our mission was to share the love of Jesus. The theme verse for this year's group was Acts 3:4-6b, "They never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ." The vibrant group consisted of 27 students (including Concordia's Lori Lanning who is DCE interning at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Fort Myers) and two staff, John Hoffman and Kristin Benson.

Lori Lanning with the help of local churches and organizations, planned the activities that the group would be doing. The CMS students went with the attitude, "We are here to serve and whatever God hands us, planned or not, we will take it on." This was the key to survival for us all. New opportunities were given to us daily. We worked with the Sunday school students and on that evening we were asked to sing before and during a candle light service for the Immokalee workers. We ended up singing for over two hours (after a long day of work). Jason Gillum said, "I never knew that I could sing that much!"

We referred back to Phil. 4:13, "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." The Immokalee workers showed us this, when they spoke with us (in Spanish) about their hardships and the hunger strike which had lasted 24 days while we were there. We also cleaned the homes of the shut-ins through Interfaith Volunteer Care-givers program. Many friendships were developed with the residents.

Jessa Walters shares her experience, "It was a week jam packed full of awesome experiences! I'll never forget what precious 88 year-old Albert [one of the shut-ins] told me, 'The secret of a good marriage is to love Jesus with all of your heart and you'll be happy forever.'

One man was so overjoyed that he told us he had never seen such a beautiful group before. Not only was the group a witness to Fort Myers, but the people we served shared the love of Christ with us also. The CMS-ers painted two houses, stretching with hortens and all, but having fun and getting a tan at the same time. We handed out flyers for churches and helped out with church services. Individuals divided up into classrooms to spend time with the children at the St. Michael's Lutheran School, whether it was playing football with eighth graders, singing with the choir, or going on a field trip with the first graders to an orange grove/plantation.

Although it was a long week filled with exciting events, hard work, and the fact our main resting place was the gym floor (after a long day of work). Jason Gillum said, "I never knew that I could sing that much!"

Heidi Stehr, Katie Ollinger, Angie Seifert, and Kim Jeske display their artistic ability in the painting of a house. Still, the CMS-ers accomplished many things with the strength provided from God. Amy Kohrs said it best when she told the television news team, "It is like Mother Teresa's mission. She wasn't afraid to touch the diseased. It was her way of sharing Jesus. There is nothing that could be more beautiful than that."
The secret of Ein Gedi: Can you DIG it?

by Jean Beck and Heidi Bierlein

Spend January working on an archeological dig. What did that mean? What would we be doing? We had no idea, but we signed up anyway and actually paid to work. What kind of Christmas break was that? It was the best experience we could have had! We had no idea what we were getting into; we just wanted to be in Israel for as long as possible. So we packed old clothing and work boots into a backpack and headed to Israel.

After being on Holy Land for about 36 hours or so, on Sunday, January 4, a group of 15 adventurous CSP students and one fearless professor, Dr. Mark Schuler, drove south and down (to the lowest point on earth!) to Ein Gedi on the shore of the Dead Sea where we spent the next five days working with an archaeological crew and other volunteers from all over the world. The Ein Gedi village - apparently a Jewish village of about 1200 people from the 4th century - consumed our whole lives - physically and emotionally - for the week we worked there. We each had various jobs at the dig: sifting, pick-axing, filling buckets, shoveling, labeling. Every time we looked up from our labor (which wasn’t very often since we worked so hard), we were treated to a breathtaking view of the Dead Sea, the Jordan mountains, and the Judean wilderness surrounding us.

Included in our discoveries were many glass and pottery shards, a village wall, jewelry, coins, and the outer walls of a holding pool from the Byzantine era. Each day we left with dirty faces, aching muscles, and a fulfilling sense of accomplishment.

As we deconstructed the land, God constructed a community of workers drawn together by dedication... who otherwise would have never met. We shared stories, laughter, sweat, and the love of God. We grew in appreciation for excavation work and were able to apply this in later touring sites.

After a long day of work (7 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) we were free to explore our surroundings. As sore as our feet and bodies were we could not help but climb the mountains of the wilderness around us to see the Spring of David and find a waterfall. Since we were told to pack very light we all wore the same work clothes day after day. (You have to really love someone to stand next to them after a week of sweaty work.)

This article does not do justice to the experience, but we wanted to share at least a portion of this great opportunity. We all feel blessed that we were able to participate in this great adventure. We all have many pictures and stories to tell and would be happy to share any of them. And next year when the trip comes around again-GO!!

Jackie Gronbach, Christy Buhl, and Jean Beck, together with their Palestinian friend Muhammad, stop working only for a second to pose in their newly dug up water cistern. They had the misfortune of being sent to a gorgeous view of the Jordanian mountains and Dead Sea that served as a distraction in their work.

Provided by Jean Beck
Holy City leaves a picture to remember

by Carolyn Havenor

"Come, let's make a deal! Only for you, pretty lady!"

Normally, I would be suspicious if a man said that to me, but in Jerusalem it's different. For one thing, the process of scavenging for food brings out the animal in all of us. We students are accustomed to shuffling down mindlessly at the dining hall, sometimes not even awake, and to holding out our meal card. In Jerusalem, you better be awake or you'll find yourself walking into the meat market, lined with hanging skinned carcasses. Or you might be run over by a three-wheeled cart carrying today's produce. No, it's not Mardi-Gras, but the most chaotic, wild party you can imagine.

Okay, so things are different in Jerusalem. The Holy City leaves a picture to remember, with beaches and palm trees, but I find that to be worthy of discussion. I expected to be bathed in revelation, seeing through Jesus' eyes the significance of each place. You know what? Jesus did show me the significance - not in the places, but in the people. Jesus let me see the power that is at work within us. Ephesians 3:20

As I reflect on the adventure that I had in Israel, I am able to find perfect words to describe the transformation that took place in me as I walked the streets of Jerusalem. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." Romans 12:11

Reflections on a peaceful place called Galilee

by Heidi Albrecht

Galilee was one of the highlights of the Pilgrimage for me. In sharp contrast to the noise and chaos of Jerusalem, Galilee was a peaceful and serene place. It was in Galilee that I felt like I was truly sitting in the places where Jesus had sat and seeing the sights He had seen.

Our trip to Galilee did not begin quite as planned. On Monday, the day we were to leave for Galilee, we woke up to a surprise 10\(^\circ\)C of snow! As a result, the trip was postponed until Friday. Because of the change in plans, we were in Galilee during the Sabbath, which had planned. (We were all proud of certain members of the trip who demonstrated great growth in the area of being flexible and not needing to follow a schedule.)

We visited many different sites in Galilee. It is hard to pick the greatest highlights because all the sites were meaningful in some way. The Mount of Beatitudes was by far one of my favorite sites from the trip. I can think of only one word to describe it: peace. The Mount of Beatitudes is a lush, green place set on a hill that overlooks the Sea of Galilee with a breathtaking view. While there, President Habib visited to us the Sermon on the Mount from the Tree of Life Church. President Charchouf visited our campus earlier this fall. His message is one of peace and his mission is to unite Palestinians and Jews. He left us with words I will never forget: "We have a story to tell and a place to show you. The story of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the place, an empty tomb." We visited many other sites in Galilee, as well, but these were the highlights for me. I left Galilee a different person. Scripture became vividly alive for me as I sat in the ruins of the Synagogue at Capernaum and read the words Jesus had spoken in that very place (John 6:52). From the experience of riding under the aggressive and skilled driving of our bus driver, to crawling around the ruins at Samaria, I believe all 26 of us left Galilee with memories we'll never forget, and experiences that will enhance our future ministry.

Buhl summed up our experiences well at the close of the Sunday morning service: "Although our trip to the Holy Land is coming to a close, the One who makes it Holy will return home with us." We returned home with new and strengthened friendships, men...
President of Israel meets CSP travellers

by Lydia Wittman

How many people on a typical vacation in a foreign country include in their itinerary a visit with one of the nation's most prominent political leaders? I am venturing to guess this is not a normal practice. But for the 26 Concordia-based voyagers of the Holy Land, the opportunity to meet with Ezer Weizman, President of Israel, for 40 solid minutes at his place of residence in Jerusalem was a part of their itinerary. The meeting with President Weizman was another once-in-a-lifetime experience in Palestine the travelers added to their list of adventures.

After gearing up in their cleanest and best-looking attire (which really is not saying much for those who used a single backpack for 18 days worth of clothing), the travelers arrived by public bus to the President’s home in the affluent side of Jerusalem on the morning of Thursday, January 15. After a thorough examination of their belongings, the security guards at the gate allowed the group into Weizman’s home, decorated with contemporary art displays of many Biblical stories. As we waited for Weizman’s arrival, we enjoyed punch and conversation with each other and the President’s assistant.

Once Weizman entered our discussion room, he and President Holst cordially exchanged greetings and comments regarding a mutual friend who had fought with Weizman in the War of Independence in 1948.

This 73-year-old war veteran truly appeared to enjoy his conversation with the group as he discussed his military history, his religious upbringing in Zionism, the technological future of the world, and past American presidents. His natural sense of humor and ability to laugh at himself made the visit even more comfortable and pleasurable.

Weizman, planning to run for his second 6-year term of office, offered advice to the group as students and American citizens. “Don’t stick only with technology. Remember to study Shakespeare, too.” Take care of America, don’t abuse the pleasure of being born free.”

Perhaps his most insightful and memorable impression on us were his parting words: “Life is not a picnic, but make it as picnic-ish as possible.”

Jerusalem and U.S. cultures: a clash of contrast

by Pinky Spaude

Imagine yourself sitting down while reading about the many adventures during the time of Jesus. Can you imagine being at one of these places? This past January, President Robert Holst and Professor Mark Schuler accompanied some of your fellow Concordians to view the life of Jesus in the Holy Land.

During our stay in Jerusalem, every morning we all got up around six or seven o’clock in the morning to begin an adventurous walk through the city. One of my favorite places was called the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus’ crucifixion and burial are remembered. A decorative shrine and a variety of beautiful artwork fill the inside of the church. This place emitted a somewhat dark and mysterious tone to some of its visitors, not only because of the death it commemorates, but also because it literally is dark inside and the noise level is kept to a minimum. I sat in this church for a while, trying to imagine what God must have been going through, to see His only Son hang on the cross.

The culture here in the United States along the streets of the Old City shout aloud to passers-by, “Come let’s make a deal,” or “Special price for a special lady.” Bartering provides a very close and personal interaction between the customers and the merchants. Here in the United States, we just accept the fixed prices and do our shopping without much dialogue and interaction.

Perhaps his most insightful and memorable impression on us were his parting words: “Life is not a picnic, but make it as picnic-ish as possible.”

One last comment...Being part of one big group became important because we all shared our thoughts and feelings with one another at the day’s end in a time of devotion to God. We not only grew in faith in Christ, but also we grew as members of the group. Most of us left knowing few people, but we all came back not just as brothers and sisters, but also as good friends.

I must thank our two leaders that accompanied us on this journey: Dr. “Papa” Schuler and President Bob Holst. You both provided us with necessary information in appreciating the sites and allowed us to see things most tourist groups would not have been able to see. On behalf of the whole group, I thank you!
Win big with financial aid forms

by Audrey Hobbs and Kelly Bonk

Be a big winner! Apply for financial aid by April 15 and get a chance to win a gift certificate from Checker Board Pizza, Target, Tracy One Stop, Brueggers, or other great places. These prizes are being donated by Audrey Hobbs and Kelly Bonk.

Exactly what forms need to be turned in by April 15?

1. 1998-99 CONCORDIA FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION
   * You should have received a 1998-99 Concordia Financial Aid re-application in your campus mailbox before Christmas. If you do not have this form, you may pick up one in the Financial Aid Office.

2. SIGNED COPIES OF 1997 FEDERAL TAX RETURNS
   * If parent information is requested on the 1998-99 FAFSA, also submit a copy of their 1997 Federal Tax Return.

3. 1998-99 STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR)
   * You must mail your FAFSA by MARCH 15.
   * Yes, there are two deadline dates: March 15 and April 15. To receive your 1998-99 Student Aid Report (SAR) by April 15, you must mail your FAFSA to the Federal Processing Center no later than March 15, 1998.
   * The 1998-99 FAFSA Renewal forms were sent to your home address in January. If you have not received this form, you may pick up a 1998-99 FAFSA in the Financial Aid Office.
   * Your SAR will be sent to you from the Federal Processing Center once processing is completed. A copy will also be forwarded to Concordia.

Again, these forms need to be turned in to the Financial Aid Office by April 15. Financial aid awards will be made once all three of these documents are received in the Financial Aid Office. Drawing winners will be published in the Daily Bulletin.

If you have any questions when filling out the forms, please call the Financial Aid Office at (612) 641-8204.

The Sword is the work of students and faculty at Concordia University, St. Paul, MN. We welcome feedback from all readers both within and outside of the Concordia Community.

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See you in Heaven,
Mrs. Poehler

The Sword staff wishes to send our sympathy to the Poehler family in the death of Mrs. Poehler on Sunday evening, January 25, at the age of 89. The Lutheran Church of the Redemption held her funeral on Friday, January 30. Mrs. Poehler’s husband served as president of Concordia College, St. Paul, from 1946 to 1970. Memorials can be given to the W. A. Poehler Scholarship fund at Concordia.

President Bob Holst

God Bless!